Iowa Department of Public Health Division of Acute Disease Prevention & Emergency Response

Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (Rabies PEP) and Information Regarding Indigent Patients / Indigent Patient Programs

The Iowa Department of Public Health is available for consultation for rabies exposure assessment and post-exposure prophylaxis recommendations 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During normal business hours, Monday through Friday, contact the Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology at 515-242-5935. After hours consultation is available by calling 800-362-2736 for referral to the on-duty officer. Determination and assessment of human rabies exposure and the need for rabies post exposure prophylaxis is based on national guidelines established in the CDC MMWR, "Human Rabies Prevention - 1999: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices"

Selected information from the CDC MMWR "Human Rabies Prevention" document is provided here for general information purposes:

- "RABIES POST EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS IS A MEDICAL URGENCY, NOT AN EMERGENCY." (page 15)
- "The essential components of rabies post exposure prophylaxis are wound treatment, and for previously unvaccinated persons, the administration of human rabies immunoglobulin and rabies vaccine (see detail information below). Persons who have been bitten by an animal suspected or proven to be rabid should begin rabies post exposure prophylaxis immediately. Incubation periods of > 1 year have been reported in humans. Thus, when a documented or likely rabies exposure has occurred, rabies post exposure prophylaxis is indicated regardless of the length of time that has elapsed since the exposure, provided the individual does not have clinical signs of rabies. " (page 27)
- "Immediate and thorough washing of all bite wounds and scratches with soap and water and a virucidal agent, such as povidone-iodine solution irrigation, are important measures for preventing rabies." (page 27)
- "Tetanus prophylaxis and measures to control bacterial infection should be administered as indicated." (page 27)

ALWAYS ask the individual if they have been pre-immunized for rabies, or if they have previously received rabies post exposure treatment with human rabies immunoglobulin and rabies vaccine (purified chick cell embryo vaccine or human diploid vaccine). Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis for individuals who have been PRE- immunized with rabies vaccine (i.e. veterinarians, veterinary students, veterinary technicians, animal control personnel, wildlife / DNR personnel) or those who have previously received rabies post exposure prophylaxis with human rabies immunoglobulin and purified chick embryo cell vaccine or human diploid cell vaccine should only receive two rabies booster vaccinations; the first on day 0, and the second on day 3 IM in the deltoid muscle; alternate arms. Human rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) is CONTRAINDICATED for individuals who have been pre-immunized or previously received rabies post exposure prophylaxis as above and should NOT be administered.

Revised <11/06/2006>

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Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (Rabies PEP) protocol for individuals who have <u>NOT</u> previously received rabies post exposure prophylaxis or individuals who have <u>NOT</u> been pre-immunized with rabies vaccine should receive Human Rabies Immunoglobulin (HRIG) <u>AND</u> a series of five rabies immunizations as detailed below:

- Human Rabies Immunoglobulin (HRIG) 20 IU / KG IM on day 0:
 - If possible, administer the total quantity of the human rabies immunoglobulin at the site of the bite.
 - If the total quantity of the HRIG cannot be administered at the site of the bite, administer an appropriate quantity of HRIG at the site of the bite, and the remainder should be administered intramuscularly (IM) in the gluteus maximus muscle. For the patient's comfort it is usually only feasible to administer 3.0 cc aliquots of HRIG IM in the gluteus maximus muscle; therefore the total quantity of HRIG should be divided into appropriate aliquots as warranted.
 - o If the person does not have a bite (i.e. person woke up and found bat in bedroom and bat is positive for rabies or could not be captured and tested) administer the total quantity of HRIG intramuscularly (IM) in the gluteus maximus muscle. For the patient's comfort it is usually only feasible to administer 3.0 cc aliquots of HRIG IM in the gluteus maximus muscle; therefore the total quantity of HRIG should be divided into appropriate aliquots as warranted.

A detailed listing of rabies biologics (human rabies immunoglobulin and rabies vaccine) current as of Oct. 2005 is available at: https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/2019prod.pdf

- Human Rabies Immunoglobulin trade, brand, and common names include Hyperab®, Imogam Rabies-HT®, HRIG, RIG
 - o There are only TWO manufacturers of Human Rabies Immunoglobulin:
 - Sanofi-pasteur (<u>www.sanofipasteur.com</u>) 1-800-822-2463
 - Talecris (<u>www.talecris.com</u>)
- 1-800-243-4153
- Series of five immunizations of rabies vaccine (purified chick embryo cell PCEC, or human diploid cell) on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28
 - o 1.0 cc IM in the deltoid muscle; alternate arms
 - o There are two manufacturers of rabies vaccine:
 - Chiron: Rabavert® vaccine (PCEC) 1-800-244-7668
 - Sanofi-pasteur (human diploid cell) 1-800-822-2463

<u>Information Regarding Indigent Patients / Indigent Patient Programs</u>

Two hospitals are available in Iowa that <u>may</u> make financial assistance / arrangements / payment programs for rabies post exposure prophylaxis (please consult the hospital directly regarding this):

- Broadlawns Medical Center 1801 Hickman Road, Des Moines, IA 515-282-2246 (patient must be a Polk county resident)
- University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics: 200 Hawkins Drive, Iowa City, IA 1-800-777-8442 (patient must be a documented resident of the state of Iowa)

Indigent patient programs: Patient support programs for rabies post exposure prophylaxis are available for uninsured individuals, those not covered by Medicare or Medicaid, and those who do not have the financial means to pay for the rabies post exposure treatment. **The patient's healthcare provider is responsible for application and inquiry regarding patients who may be eligible.**

- HRIG: contact Sanofi-pastuer indigent patient program at 877-798-8716
- Rabies vaccine: Chiron's indigent patient program is conducted through:
 - o Rx Hope 866-972-2437 http://www.rxhope.com/

Revised <11/06/2006>